BROADCASTER

La Porte Police join several Texas Law Enforcement Agencies for the 2013 Warrant Round UP



02.22.13

A Friday February 15th, 2013 press conference, held in the City of Houston, advertised the largest united effort of Texas law enforcement agencies to date. The 2013 "Great Texas Warrant Round-Up" will be among more than 300 law enforcement jurisdictions across Texas, including the La Porte Police Department. This statewide annual event, set to begin specifically on Saturday March 2nd and continue through March 10th, is designed to look for individuals with outstanding warrants. However, for La Porte, Officers have already been provided with active warrant lists, yet will more actively seek out individuals on the lists beginning Saturday March 2nd. Therefore, given the early warrant-list release to LPPD Patrol Officers, the effects of the Warrant Round-Up may well be witnessed in La Porte even earlier than the Texas campaign.

The La Porte Municipal Court currently has hundreds of active warrants it is seeking to clear. Therefore Court officials are encouraging defendants to take advantage of the options available to resolve outstanding warrants.

Once the Warrant Round-up period officially begins in La Porte on March 2nd, LPPD and other law enforcement agencies will aggressively target those defendants on the warrant list. Authorities warn that arrests can take place at any location, including the defendant's home, school, or workplace. Additionally, a special task force will focus solely on locating defendants with outstanding warrants through LPPD's license plate recognition program, where both moving and parked vehicle license plates reveal vehicle owners with active warrants.

In the immediate period, citizen volunteers will begin making calls to all La Porte Municipal Court defendants with active warrants. For more information about warrants or citations visit the website at www.laportetx.gov or contact the La Porte Municipal Court at 281-471-4683. Citizens with warrants in

jurisdictions other than the City of La Porte should contact those jurisdictions for information about how to clear those warrants.

2013 Great Warrant Round-Up FAQ's

Why is Law Enforcement doing this?

To close cases for which all other means of resolution have been unsuccessful.

Why do this now?

Statewide cooperation with other entities provides broader public awareness. Tax refund season also creates better opportunity for some defendants to pay their fines.

How many warrants are outstanding?

This number is not constant and changes all the time. However, in the City of La Porte alone, there remains a significant revolving number of active warrants in the court's system. In addition, some defendants actually have multiple warrants.

How can I find out if I have warrants?

For La Porte Municipal Court warrants, call 281-471-4683. For warrants issued out of surrounding municipal and justice courts, contact the Court in that particular jurisdiction for further information.

What are my options if I find out I do have warrants?

You may pay the fine and court costs, or post a bond and have your case(s) reset for a new court date. You may also seek legal advice from an attorney.

Will there be an amnesty offered to reduce the cost of any of the fines or fees?

No Amnesty will be offered during the Warrant Round Up period.

If I want to pay for my warrants, what are my payment options?

Payment options for warrants issued by the City of La Porte Municipal Court are as follows:

- ONLINE www.laportetx.gov Click "Online Payments"
- BY PHONE Call 877-224-6076 (24 hour payment line)
- BY MAIL 3005 North 23rd Street La Porte, TX. 77571
- IN PERSON at the Court window or drop-box inside of the front door at 3005 23rd street.

For payment options for warrants in other jurisdictions, contact the appropriate Court for that area.

What forms of payment do you accept?

The City of La Porte Municipal Court accepts cash, money orders, MasterCard, and Visa.

After I pay, how long will it take for the information to be removed from DPS records?

The Department of Public Safety will clear holds on driver's licenses within 7 to 10 business days.

Again, for more information about warrants or citations visit the website at www.laportetx.gov or contact the La Porte Municipal Court at 281-471-4683.